

# THE OPINION PAGE

## THE COMPASS

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The Compass is published by Elizabeth City State University students under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Dr. Anne Henderson, Chairperson, and Mr. Stephen March, faculty advisor.

The Compass welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be sent to ECSU Box 815, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. They may be edited for length, clarity, and taste, as well as accuracy and grammar. Because of limited space, not all letters can be published.

## Launching The Phoenix

Congratulations are due to the members of the Pickwick Society for having the initiative and vision to approach Chancellor Jenkins about financing the publication of a literary magazine.

The Chancellor, too, deserves praise for appropriating \$2,500 for the school's literary magazine—and for somehow always managing to make time to talk to students who want to see him, despite his demanding schedule.

The University's lack of an arts publication has long been an embarrassing blemish on its record—a suggestion, perhaps, that we have at times emphasized image over substance, rhetoric over action. (Undoubtedly, administrators have found money for far less meritorious projects, on numerous occasions.) Moreover, the lack has deprived gifted students the opportunity to express themselves.

The new magazine will not only correct this imbalance; it should also serve as a highly effective medium to market the University to prospective new students. And the opportunity to see their own work in print will encourage the creativity of ECSU's talented writers.

It has taken a SACS accreditation visit and a centennial celebration to provide impetus for this important step. But the results produced by the students prove that we can, and must, take the initiative in improving our University. It takes more than new buildings and fine phrases to make a truly excellent school; there must also be an involved student body that knows that there is something else in life besides expensive clothes, Greek organizations and M-TV.

Now that the magazine has been funded, students must take the leadership role in writing, editing and producing it. And a funding mechanism should be put in place to finance the publication on a regular basis. One suggestion would be to use student fees for support. Students should not have to depend on the Chancellor's generosity to keep the magazine afloat, in a time of budget cuts and hard times.

The students' suggested title for the magazine is *The Phoenix*, the mythological bird that created itself anew out of its own ashes.

We hope this image will also epitomize the student body's commitment to improving our campus as we cross the threshold to our second 100 years.

## Dear Liz...

Dear Liz:  
Last night I did something I'll never forgive myself for. It all started with a pleasant evening at a party. I met many people and flirted a little because I was starved for attention. Most importantly, I had sex with someone I met that night. It was so intense and passionate that the hotel room seemed to echo "more, more" in my ears. After it was over, I felt dirty, cheap and disgusted. I think it was my desire for his lustful body that drove me to such madness. That night I broke all the rules. The experience was pleasing, but I was disappointed in myself. Please tell me that I am normal.

Lusty

Dear Lusty:  
O.K., you're normal! All of us at one point, will rebel against everything we've stood for. You're not all alone. You have just described what happened to 1,000 other girls last night. Everyone has a breaking point and a different set of morals. Some women do this as a hobby. Obviously, it's not your thing, but now you know your limitation when it comes to quick sex. It only lasts for one night and the consequences left you in worse shape than you were before. The thing to do now is pick yourself up, brush your-

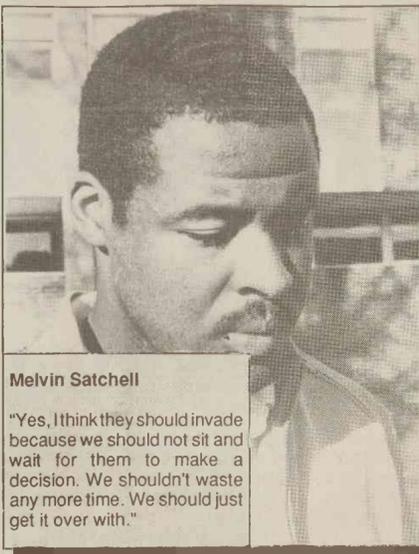
self off and move on with the lesson that you've learned from this experience.

Liz

Dear Liz:  
I don't have a boyfriend and I'm looking for an eligible man to become close to. So far, the only luck I've had is with a homeboy from my old high school. He cares for me, I can tell. However, I can't bring myself to talk to him because he's so much unlike my last friend. I realize I can't have everything just perfect; but I do have preferences. He is still pushing me. What should I do concerning him?

Available yet Choicy

Dear Choicy:  
There's nothing wrong with being choicy, but there is everything wrong with being lonely. You sound like you've been sitting by the fireplace waiting for "Prince Charming" to ride up on his white horse and "take you away." Just because we desire a mate with the characteristics that please us does not mean that we are desiring what's best. In high school, everyone was developing their own minds and personalities. Get to know him for who he is personally. This young man could make you very happy if and when you decide to break the mold



Melvin Satchell

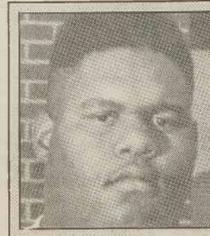
"Yes, I think they should invade because we should not sit and wait for them to make a decision. We shouldn't waste any more time. We should just get it over with."

Crystal Gibbs

"Yes, because I feel that by stalling and waiting they are only wasting money. Also, the more time they take, the more time they give the enemy to prepare for when they do attack."

## Talk of ECSU:

Do you feel that the United States should invade Kuwait and drive Hussein out?



Darrin Stewart

"Yes, they should have invaded a long time ago, because gas should not keep going up the way it is."

Sabreena Watson

"No, because war is not going to solve anything. It will only start a third world war and cause many families to lose their loved ones."



## Guest Columnists

## Today's 'real man' must respect God

By Bruce Copeland

There are many things to be considered in defining the ideal man. To many people, the ideal man is one who supports his family. To others, he is one who takes control of any given situation he is put in. My definition of the ideal man consists primarily of four things: the responsibility he has for his family, the responsibility he has for his people, the responsibility he has for his own existence, and the acceptance and appreciation he has for God.

The ideal man must be one who takes proper care of his family, including wife and children, as well as his parents, when they are in need. It is very important that a man not forget those who raised him, and to let few things come before the needs of his mother and father, people who are more than worthy of what he can do for them.

With regard to his immediate fam-

ily, the ideal man should not only provide a substantial income for his wife and children, he should also provide the love and attention they deserve. Too many people think that as long as a man is putting food on the table, he is doing his job. This is a misconception that unfortunately a great number of men and women have accepted.

The ideal man is also obligated to his people. By this, I don't mean that a Black man should just be concerned with Black people and hate everyone else.

I feel that a man should tend to the needs of his people first, however, and after that has been achieved, he can focus on the necessities of others.

I think it is just natural for a man to assist in the survival of his people and that it would be foolish not to. If a man's own people do not flourish, then how can he be proud of himself and of his own achievements? It is a duty and hopefully a pleasure for a

man to further the advancement of his people as long as he does not hinder someone from another race or group in doing the same.

The ideal man should be happy with himself and pleased with who he is and where he is in life. Never should a man be so preoccupied with the lives of others that he lets his own life fall apart.

The ideal man should never be content with just existing. He should continuously do everything he can to better himself and get the most of his life.

Certainly, it is vital that a man not be selfish and neglect the rest of the world, but society has not allowed men to "be men" and still provide for themselves. So many men feel they must take upon the role of the earth's savior and set aside what they want and what they need. The ideal man should be able to take care of his responsibilities to others as well as to himself, for if his own life is a trav-

esty, what can he possibly do for anyone else?

The most important factor in defining the real man is acceptance and appreciation of God. Encompassing all of the previously mentioned responsibilities into one's life, a man might not realize the importance of God. He may be so caught up with "being a man" that he becomes carried away with himself and forgets where the strength and very essence to be a man come from.

Without a strong bond with God a true man can not exist, for God is the one who provides man the tools he needs to assume this role. The ideal man must and can do a number of things for others and for himself, but if he does not give God the respect and gratitude He deserves then he is not an ideal man.

(Bruce Copeland, a native of Dayton, Ohio, is a freshman majoring in business administration.)

## Letters

## Time window for U.S. attack is Jan.-March '91

Dear Editor:

The Middle East crisis came about through the invasion of Iraq on August 2, 1990.

Within days, Iraq had proclaimed that Kuwait was an integral part of Iraq and ceased to exist as an independent nation.

I do not want to be a defender of Saddam Hussein and his actions, but I think a little history and analysis of the situation is appropriate since very few press reports have provided accurate and balanced information.

It was only in 1923 that Kuwait became an independent nation, thanks to the then prevailing imperial power, Great Britain. Kuwait until that time had been an integral part of Iraq and only its great petroleum deposits induced Great Britain to segregate it from its other possession, Iraq.

Furthermore, Iraq had long standing border disputes with Kuwait. The outcome of the war between Iraq and Iran did not provide Iraq with its most desired goal which was a deep water port in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, it was only natural that it would turn towards the weaker neighbor Kuwait

to get this access (as well as getting its oil fields in the process).

The United States seems to end up defending the wrong kind of political system. If we analyze Kuwait's political structure we have to recognize that it was a feudal state without any democratic governance. The Al Saba family has hundreds of years of dictatorial and feudal tradition as do many other governments in the gulf. It is somehow ironic that the United States, the most powerful democracy on earth, would have to go and defend one of the most feudal and undemocratic areas in the world.

On the other hand, there is no justification to use naked aggression against any state, not even Iraq. Even if it may have considered that it had legitimate problems to resolve with Kuwait, they certainly could have been settled by conferences and negotiation.

Let us now look into the future. There are two possible ways to resolve the conflict. One would be settlement by negotiation with Hussein and therefore leaving him in power as well as leaving his significant military apparatus in place. This would only

mean that a larger crisis would materialize in a few years when Iraq may decide the time has come to invade Saudi Arabia or any other of its neighbors: Syria, Turkey or Jordan to get to Israel.

The other solution is of course a military attack on Iraq through massive air force intervention and a swift destruction of Iraq's military establishment. The country is relatively small and a preemptive strike could bring a fast victory; the only kind of victory the United States should aim for. Though this may represent a military victory the anti-Western feelings of most Arabs would generate a further resentment of the West and its influence on the Middle East. A greater hostility towards Israel may result. The time window for that is only January to March, 91.

In essence, America is now between a rock and a hard place. Any of its actions may have severe repercussions on its foreign policy for years to come. We are damned if we do and damned if we don't. It is also unfortunate that the majority of American people see operation Desert Shield not as an issue of principle where a

democratic country defends the right of survival of a small state but as an issue of securing cheaper oil for the large oil companies which have profited so handsomely from the skyrocketing price of petroleum and its products. But that may be another issue that could be discussed in a future letter to the editor.

Dr. Jose Ventura  
Department of Business

## Mr. Spangler says thanks

Dear Editors:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your newspaper, *The Compass*. In that October 11, 1990 issue, you were very generous in your support for me and my efforts to strengthen our university.

I thank you for your words of support. They mean a lot to me.

Dick Spangler  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

you had designed for your "knight in shining armor."

Liz

Dear Liz:

There is a nice young man whom I happen to care for. He's honest, charming, and very real. When we're together, I can let go and be myself. Our ideas and experiences are so much alike that it's frightening. He treats me like

a lady should be treated and I like it. So far, this sounds like "the joint" right? Well, here's the shocker: *the guy is ugly!!!* I do mean ugly. If I saw him on the sidewalk, I'd walk away from it. But he makes me smile. Right now my feelings for him are in the dark for I know my friends would "dog me out" if they knew I liked him. Any good advice?

Don't Look

Dear Don't Look:

One thing you can't do is remake his face. Outward appearance does have an affect on our choice of a mate in relationships. However, maybe too much emphasis is placed on how a person looks to determine how happy we would be with that person. You sound as though his personality brings him out. Evidently, not out enough for you to get closer to him, however, if

it's that big of a problem, forget it for you don't really accept him for what he is. Most importantly, your friends have no say so in who you choose to love. Everything you do will not meet up to their measurements, so what will you do then? So start now making your own judgement based on your happiness, not the happiness of others.

Liz